

Message Text

SECRET

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22-11
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 PM-03

SP-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 EB-03 L-01 H-01 SSO-00 PRS-01

USIA-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EUR-08 /056 W

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R 280856Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 5843

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VN
SUBJECT: MARCOS TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH HANOI

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD ME APRIL 28 THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT ABSENCE OF ANY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MANILA AND HANOI. HE FEELS THAT POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND VIETNAM IS GROWING AND WILL BE ENHANCED IF OIL IS DISCOVERED IN DISPUTED AREA NEAR REED BANK.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, MARCOS SAID IT IS HIS INTENTION, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. AND THE ASEAN STATES, TO TRY TO OPEN SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH HANOI. HE SAID HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED SOME "NIBBLES" FROM THE VIETNAMESE, BUT

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HAS REFRAINED FROM REPLYING AS YET. IN HIS JUDGMENT, HE

SAID HE FEELS IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO BEGIN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH HANOI UNTIL AFTER WE COMPLETE OUR NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGN OUR AGREEMENT ON MILITARY BASES. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, VIETNAM WOULD ATTEMPT THROW MONKEY WRENCHES INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. AFTER AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, HE CAN STAND ON A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

4. MARCOS SAID HE HAD EXAMINED VAROUS WAYS TO GET AT THE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH HANOI. SOME SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN MADE THAT HE USE THE SOVIETS AS AN INTERMEDIARY, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD NOT ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO THE CHINESE, BUT WOULD GIVE THE SOVIETS TOO MUCH LEVERAGE IN LOCAL MATTERS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE FELT A DIRECT APPROACH WAS THE ONLY ANSWER.

5. COMMENT: I DON'T CONSIDER THAT THIS DISCUSSION CONSTITUTES THE "CONSULTATION" THAT MARCOS HAS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, THE BALL IS NOW IN OUR COURT IN THE EVENT WE WISH TO CONVEY ANYTHING TO THE PHILIPPINES BEYOND THE BOILER PLATE CONTAINED IN STATE 73536.

6. DEPT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECRETARY SINCE HE WILL BE SEEING MARCOS IN NAIROBI NEXT WEEK. SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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